

REMARKS

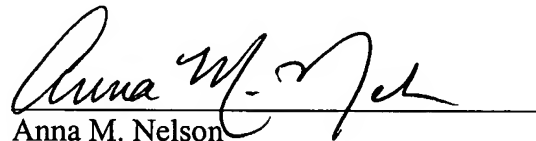
Applicants have amended the specification to add priority information. The present Preliminary Amendment requests cancellation of claims 1-17. New claims 18-23 have been added numbered sequentially beginning with the next highest number after the highest numbered claim of the parent application. Support for new claims 18-23 is found in the originally filed specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
612.332.5300

Date March 26, 2004



Anna M. Nelson
Reg. No. 48,935
AMN:PLStdM

34379

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE